



COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0509

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding in the amount of \$3,800,000 for the Delta College Nursing Simulation Labs in the fiscal year 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

The project sponsor for this project is the San Joaquin Delta College, and the project is located at 5151 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95207.

San Joaquin Delta College seeks to increase the number of nursing simulation laboratories from one to four in an effort to increase enrollment in the nursing programs and public healthcare professionals' access to additional training, to help mitigate anticipated shortages in the profession.

According to a study by University of California San Francisco (UCSF), the demand for registered nurses (RN) in California's San Joaquin Valley is projected to grow by more than 35% over the next 10 years, while current graduation rates indicate that the total number of RNs available will decline substantially, resulting in a shortage of between 6,191 and 9,944 nurses in the Valley by 2030.

Although San Joaquin Delta College has responded by implementing a streamlined 16-month program to complement its extant 24-month RN degree program, it recognizes the need to expand even more. Consequently, the College intends to expand its nursing and related healthcare programs over the next few years to accommodate the more than 120 RNs that graduated the last full pre-COVID impacted academic year. This will require increasing the numbers of simulation laboratories from one to four.

Simulation-based nursing education (i.e., Sim Lab) provides students with opportunities to practice their clinical and decision-making skills through various real-life situational experiences in a safe environment. A laboratory equipped with video recorders and high-fidelity simulators, or manikins (a.k.a., "mannequins"), controlled by nursing instructors from a computer on the other side of a mirrored viewing glass record students as they do everything from setting up IVs and taking urine samples to applying defibrillators to shock the 'patient manikins', and performing tracheotomies. The simulators have tubing in their arms and legs so students can feel for a pulse, and sacs in their chests that move up and down to mimic the rise and fall of a human chest while breathing. The rubber and silicon manikins' range of symptoms and afflictions are

almost as broad as those of a human. And the videotaped simulation allows students and instructors to review and critique treatments and evaluate performance in post-simulation de-briefing sessions.

San Joaquin Delta College's Nursing Department proposes the addition of four portable Sim Labs to be housed in one of the College's overflow parking lots in which two Sim Labs will house three hospital beds and requisite equipment (for a total of six hospital beds, set-up for oxygen; monitoring EKG, etc.). Each Sim Lab would contain six Laerdal SimMan manikin simulators: two adult males, one premature baby, one full-term baby, one junior/pediatric patient and one woman who gives birth.

Nursing Simulation Labs are critical for educating and preparing nurses and other healthcare workers. Funding for this project is a good use of taxpayer funds, as these labs will provide a safe environment where students learn experientially through simulations of real-life emergencies as experienced by seasoned healthcare workers. San Joaquin Delta College currently has one simulation lab and is subsequently limited to the numbers of prospective nurses/healthcare workers it can accept into its programs. These additional simulation labs will enable the College to educate and graduate more nurses every year, and thereby help to reduce the projected shortage of more than 6,000 nurses by 2025. These additions will enable the College to increase the existing annual entering cohorts of 120 nursing students while concurrently impacting other existing programs, specifically the Psychiatric Technology and the Certified Nursing Assistant programs.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerry McNerney", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress